



421 Chew St., Allentown, PA 18102

February 8, 2006

Mr. Marc P. Volavka
Executive Director, Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
225 Market Street, Suite 400
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Volavka:

We are pleased to be able to review the quality data for coronary artery bypass surgery performed at Sacred Heart Hospital in 2004. Clinical quality improvement is an essential focus for us and we are glad to have the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4) program available to assist us.

The 4 patient cases referred to in the PHC4 analysis were extensively reviewed, both internally and externally, to assess factors that contributed to the mortalities. This process enabled our hospital to recommend and to implement a number of changes, leading to significant clinical quality outcome improvements in 2005.

We look forward to participating in the PHC4 cardiac surgery quality review process in the future as we all seek to improve health care for the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James M. Seitzinger".

James M. Seitzinger
President and CEO

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Sparandero".

Frank Sparandero, MD, MPH, FACP
Vice President for Medical Affairs